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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/578,188	09/08/2008	Nobuyasu Kanekawa	056208.57688US	8514
23911 7590 07/23/2009 CROWELL & MORING LLP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP P.O. BOX 14300 WASHINGTON, DC 20044-4300				
EXAMINER				
TRAN, KHAI				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2611				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary**Application No.**

10/578,188

Applicant(s)

KANEKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

KHAI TRAN

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 August 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5, 8 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12-14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SI/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/04/07, 12/04/07
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 5, 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gasbarror et al (U.S. Pat. 5,432,823) in view of Bevan et al (U.S. Pat. 7,372,832).

Regarding claim 1, Gasbarror et al disclose a communication system as shown in Figures 2- 3, comprising a master node (a master device) and a plurality of slave nodes (slave devices), and the system in which the master node and slave nodes, and the system in which the master node and slave nodes communicate with one another, wherein the master node comprises: a clock transmission means for transmitting a clock signal to the plurality of slave nodes (clocks from the master device 136, 138 as shown in Figure 3). Gasbarror et al fail to disclose a means for transmitting a group of communication selection signals, which signifies whether each slave node is selected as a party of signal transmission to or from the master node and which signifies a direction of communication, to the slave nodes.

Bevan et al disclose a means for transmitting a group of communication selection signals, which signifies whether each slave node is selected as a party

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of signal transmission to or from the master node and which signifies a direction of communication, to the slave nodes (col. 6, lines 33-61). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to select one of the slave nodes by using the group of communication signals as taught Bevan et al into the teachings of Gasbarror et al in order to determine the quality of channel.

Gasbarror et al also disclose a means for transmitting data to the plurality of slave nodes synchronously with the clock signal (see Abstract, col. 2, lines 59-67); and a means for receiving data sent from a selected slave node synchronously with the clock signal (col. 2, line 67 to col. 3, line 5).

Claim 5 is similar to claim 1. Therefore, claim 5 is rejected under a similar rationale.

Claim 8 is similar to claim 1. Therefore, claim 8 is rejected under a similar rationale.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gasbarror et al (U.S. Pat. 5,432,823) in view of Bevan et al (U.S. Pat. 7,372,832) in further in view of Mukkerjee et al (US 2003/0037194).

Claim 11 is similar to claim 1 except a plurality of I/O nodes instead of the plurality of slave nodes. Mukkerjee et al each slave has I/O ports to provide communications between it and the master system. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the plurality of I/O nodes in the slave node as taught by

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Mukkerjee et al in to the teachings of Gasbarror et al and Bevan et al in order to support broadcast perform point to point communications such as serial ports, parallel ports.

Allowable Subject Matter.

4. Claim 2-4, 6-7, 9-10, 12-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Gasbarror et al, Bevan et al, and Mukkerjee et al fail to disclose wherein the group of communication selection signals includes a first selection signal signifying whether each slave node is selected as a receiver of signal transmission from the master node, and a second selection signal signifying whether each slave node is selected as a sender of signal transmission to the master node; and the second selection signal is used to select at most one slave node on a simultaneous.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Farleigh (U.S. Pat. 5,206,857) discloses an asynchronous fiber optic.

Perino (U.S. Pat. 6,968,024) discloses a master-slave system including a clock and phase signal generator.

Daly et al (US 2005/0216631) disclose a serial digital communication system and method.

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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KHAI TRAN whose telephone number is (571)272-3019. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM - 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Payne can be reached on (571) 272-3024. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/KHAI TRAN/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2611

July 16, 2009